

1 **CLAIMS**

2 What is claimed is:

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4 1. A method for use in a multiple user computing environment logon
5 user interface, the method comprising:

6 creating a separate desktop thread for each user that is authenticated;
7 creating a separate desktop associated with each desktop thread; and
8 maintaining a list of desktop threads that are created.

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10 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

11 establishing a separate user environment associated with each desktop.

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13 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

14 launching a separate user shell associated with each desktop.

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16 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

17 selectively switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without
18 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop.

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20 5. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

21 automatically switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without
22 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop launching a separate
23 user shell associated with each desktop.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein automatically switching from
2 a first desktop to a second desktop occurs following a defined period of user
3 inactivity.

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5 7. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
6 selectively removing a desktop thread from the list of desktop threads when
7 a user logs off.

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9 8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
10 instructions for performing steps comprising:
11 creating a separate desktop thread for each user that is authenticated;
12 creating a separate desktop associated with each desktop thread; and
13 maintaining a list of desktop threads that are created.

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15 9. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further
16 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:
17 establishing a separate user environment associated with each desktop.

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19 10. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further
20 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:
21 launching a separate user shell associated with each desktop.

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23 11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further
24 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

1 selectively switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without
2 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop.

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4 12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further
5 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

6 automatically switching from a first desktop to a second desktop without
7 terminating a desktop thread associated with the first desktop launching a separate
8 user shell associated with each desktop.

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10 13. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 12, wherein
11 automatically switching from a first desktop to a second desktop occurs following
12 a defined period of user inactivity.

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14 14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8, having further
15 computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

16 selectively removing a desktop thread from the list of desktop threads when
17 a user logs off.

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19 15. An arrangement comprising:
20 memory having at least a portion of an operating system stored therein;
21 a processor operatively coupled to the memory and responsive to the
22 operating system to create a separate desktop thread for each user that is
23 authenticated during a logon process, create a separate desktop associated with
24 each desktop thread, and maintain a list of desktop threads that are created.

1 16. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is
2 further responsive to the operating system by establishing a separate user
3 environment associated with each desktop.

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5 17. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is
6 further responsive to the operating system by launching a separate user shell
7 associated with each desktop.

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9 18. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is
10 further responsive to the operating system by selectively switching from a first
11 desktop to a second desktop without terminating a desktop thread associated with
12 the first desktop.

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14 19. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is
15 further responsive to the operating system by automatically switching from a first
16 desktop to a second desktop without terminating a desktop thread associated with
17 the first desktop launching a separate user shell associated with each desktop.

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19 20. The arrangement as recited in claim 19, wherein automatically
20 switching from a first desktop to a second desktop occurs following a defined
21 period of user inactivity.

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23 21. The arrangement as recited in Claim 15, wherein the processor is
24 further responsive to the operating system by selectively removing a desktop
25 thread from the list of desktop threads when a user logs off.

1 22. A method for use in a multiple user computing environment logon
2 user interface, the method comprising:

3 creating a separate remote process thread for each user that is authenticated;
4 creating a separate remote process associated with each remote process
5 thread; and

6 maintaining a list of remote process threads that are created.

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8 23. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:

9 establishing a separate user environment associated with each remote
10 process.

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12 24. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:

13 launching a separate user shell associated with each remote process.

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15 25. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:

16 selectively switching from a first remote process to a second remote
17 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first
18 remote process.

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20 26. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:

21 automatically switching from a first remote process to a second remote
22 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first
23 remote process launching a separate user shell associated with each remote
24 process.

1 27. The method as recited in claim 26, wherein automatically switching
2 from a first remote process to a second remote process occurs following a defined
3 period of user inactivity.

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5 28. The method as recited in Claim 22, further comprising:
6 selectively removing a remote process thread from the list of remote
7 process threads when a user logs off.

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9 29. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
10 instructions for performing steps comprising:

11 creating a separate remote process thread for each user that is authenticated;
12 creating a separate remote process associated with each remote process
13 thread; and
14 maintaining a list of remote process threads that are created.

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16 30. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having
17 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

18 establishing a separate user environment associated with each remote
19 process.

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21 31. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having
22 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:
23 launching a separate user shell associated with each remote process.

1 32. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having
2 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

3 selectively switching from a first remote process to a second remote
4 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first
5 remote process.

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7 33. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having
8 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

9 automatically switching from a first remote process to a second remote
10 process without terminating a remote process thread associated with the first
11 remote process launching a separate user shell associated with each remote
12 process.

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14 34. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 33, wherein
15 automatically switching from a first remote process to a second remote process
16 occurs following a defined period of user inactivity.

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18 35. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 29, having
19 further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of:

20 selectively removing a remote process thread from the list of remote
21 process threads when a user logs off.

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23 36. An arrangement comprising:

24 memory having at least a portion of an operating system stored therein;

1 a processor operatively coupled to the memory and responsive to the
2 operating system to create a separate remote process thread for each user that is
3 authenticated during a logon process, create a separate remote process associated
4 with each remote process thread, and maintain a list of remote process threads that
5 are created.

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7 37. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is
8 further responsive to the operating system by establishing a separate user
9 environment associated with each remote process.

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11 38. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is
12 further responsive to the operating system by launching a separate user shell
13 associated with each remote process.

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15 39. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is
16 further responsive to the operating system by selectively switching from a first
17 remote process to a second remote process without terminating a remote process
18 thread associated with the first remote process.

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20 40. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is
21 further responsive to the operating system by automatically switching from a first
22 remote process to a second remote process without terminating a remote process
23 thread associated with the first remote process launching a separate user shell
24 associated with each remote process.

1 41. The arrangement as recited in claim 40, wherein automatically
2 switching from a first remote process to a second remote process occurs following
3 a defined period of user inactivity.

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5 42. The arrangement as recited in Claim 36, wherein the processor is
6 further responsive to the operating system by selectively removing a remote
7 process thread from the list of remote process threads when a user logs off.

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